

Student Name:

Date:

Class/Group:

 WARM-UP DISCUSSION POINTS

*Have you ever faced any problems when writing a report or an article? What kind of problems did you have?
Discuss with your partner and take brief notes.*

PART I: WHAT IS A RESEARCH PAPER?

A research paper presents your own interpretation, evaluation, or argument on a specific topic. It involves conducting extensive research and preparing a methodical analysis of your sources to articulate a compelling argument or present new insights. But learning how to write a research paper can be a daunting task for students.

The process of writing a research paper begins with choosing a topic, before then conducting thorough research into that topic. To structure your paper, you should familiarise yourself with a research paper format, which typically includes an **introduction**, **literature review**, **methodology**, **findings**, and **conclusion**.

A good research paper also includes an **abstract** – a concise summary of the paper's content – and the use of accurate **references**, which are fundamental to communicating the credibility of your research. Writing a research paper offers an opportunity to delve deeply into a topic that fascinates you and contribute to the academic conversation.

HOW TO WRITE A RESEARCH PAPER

1. Choosing a research topic: You should carefully choose your research topic. Start by aligning your own interests with the requirements of your assignment – a topic that fascinates you will make the research process more engaging. Make sure that your topic is relevant to your field of study, and consider its feasibility. For example, can you collect enough data or read enough information within the given timeframe? You should also aim for originality: seek an angle that offers fresh insights or a new perspective on established knowledge in your discipline.

2. Conducting background research: Once you've chosen your research topic, it's time to do some initial research to deepen your understanding of this topic. It's also an opportunity to discover various perspectives and theories related to your topic. Utilise credible sources – like online databases, academic journals, and books from your university library – to ensure your research is accurate and reliable. This kind of comprehensive background research is key to crafting a well-informed, insightful paper.

PART I: LEXICAL TASKS

TASK 1 Vocabulary Matching

Match the vocabulary from the text (1–10) with the correct definition (A–J). Write the correct letter in the box provided.

☐

1. interpretation

☐

2. extensive

☐

3. methodical

A. the quality of being believable or trustworthy

B. careful, systematic, and well-organised

C. the ability to be successfully completed or achieved

D. very detailed and careful

E. involving a large amount or covering a wide area

- ☐ 4. daunting
- ☐ 5. thorough
- ☐ 6. concise
- ☐ 7. credibility
- ☐ 8. feasibility
- ☐ 9. originality
- ☐ 10. credible

- F. a personal explanation or understanding of something
- G. difficult or frightening because it seems challenging
- H. the quality of being new, different, or creative
- I. giving only the most important information in a short form
- J. able to be trusted or believed

TASK 2 Sentence Completion

Complete each sentence with a suitable word from the box. Use each word exactly **once**.

abstract • articulate • delve • relevant • timeframe • perspective • insights • references • conducting • reliable

- The researcher spent several months _____ interviews with university students.
- Your research topic should be _____ to your field of study.
- The _____ provides a short summary of the main ideas in a research paper.
- Students must include accurate _____ to show where they obtained their information.
- Researchers often _____ deeply into a topic when they want to understand it fully.
- The study offers new _____ into the causes of climate change.
- You need to finish the project within the given _____.
- The article presents a different _____ on the problem.
- It is important to use _____ sources when writing an academic paper.
- A good researcher should be able to _____ their argument clearly and convincingly.

TASK 3 Multiple Choice: Contextual Meaning

Choose the best meaning of the bold word as it is used in the text.

1. Writing a research paper can be a **daunting** task.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| ☐ a) boring | ☐ b) challenging and intimidating |
| ☐ c) enjoyable | ☐ d) simple |

2. Researchers should conduct **thorough** research.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ a) quick | ☐ b) incomplete |
| ☐ c) careful and detailed | ☐ d) unnecessary |

3. An abstract is a **concise** summary of a paper.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ a) very detailed | ☐ b) short and clear |
| ☐ c) difficult to understand | ☐ d) critical |

4. Accurate references are fundamental to communicating the credibility of research.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ a) unnecessary | ☐ b) controversial |
| ☐ c) basic and essential | ☐ d) optional |

5. Students should consider the feasibility of their research topic.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ a) whether it is interesting | ☐ b) whether it can realistically be completed |
| ☐ c) whether it is original | ☐ d) whether it is popular |

6. Researchers should aim for originality.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ a) using established ideas only | ☐ b) avoiding research |
| ☐ c) offering something new or different | ☐ d) collecting a lot of data |

7. A researcher should use credible sources.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ a) difficult | ☐ b) trustworthy |
| ☐ c) recent only | ☐ d) expensive |

8. Background research helps students discover different perspectives on a topic.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ a) methods of collecting data | ☐ b) points of view |
| ☐ c) research papers | ☐ d) conclusions |

9. A research paper should present a compelling argument.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ a) convincing and persuasive | ☐ b) complicated |
| ☐ c) short | ☐ d) emotional |

10. Background research is key to crafting a well-informed paper.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ a) irrelevant | ☐ b) essential |
| ☐ c) optional | ☐ d) difficult |

PART II: CRAFTING A RESEARCH QUESTION

When diving into any research project, the foundation of your work lies in the research question. A strong research question is the foundation of every successful academic or scientific study. If you don't define your question well, your research will lack focus and direction. You need to craft a question that is specific, clear, and researchable to ensure your study is impactful and well-structured.

WHAT IS A RESEARCH QUESTION?

A research question is the central query that your study aims to answer. It defines the scope of your research, sets the direction for your investigation, and helps you stay on track. It defines the exact problem or issue you're investigating. Without a clear research question, your work risks becoming unfocused and irrelevant.

A STRONG RESEARCH QUESTION MUST BE:

Clear – Direct & easy to understand

Focused – Not too broad or vague

Specific – Targets key variables

Researchable – Answerable with data

Relevant – Aligns with study goals

Original – Explores fresh angles

HOW TO WRITE A RESEARCH QUESTION IN 6 STEPS

- 1 Identify your topic**
 Start with a broad area of interest. Read key papers to understand main debates, common terminology, and themes.

 **Tip:** Ask yourself: *What problems or unanswered questions appear frequently in the literature?*
- 2 Narrow your focus**
 Narrow your broad topic to a specific issue that can realistically be studied in your timeframe.
- 3 Define your objectives**
 Clarify what you want to understand, explain, compare, or investigate. Clear objectives prevent vagueness.
Ask: What relationship am I exploring? What phenomenon do I want to explain? What gap am I addressing?
- 4 Turn the topic into a research question**
 Convert your topic into a clear question using analytical stems: *How does... / What factors influence... / To what extent does... / Why does...*
- 5 Make sure it is researchable**
 Ensure the question can realistically be answered using evidence, data, or existing literature.
- 6 Revise for clarity and precision**
 Adjust scope to find the right balance between broad and narrow.

Balancing Your Question Scope:

✗ Too Broad:

How does social media affect people?

✗ Too Narrow:

How does Instagram affect self-esteem in 15-year-old students at XYZ High School?

✓ Balanced & Focused:

How does Instagram use influence teenage self-esteem?

PART II: LEXICAL TASKS

TASK 4 Word Formation

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the word given in brackets.

1. A strong research question should be clear, specific, and _____. (RESEARCH)
2. The research question determines the _____ framework you will use in your study. (METHODOLOGICAL)
3. Researchers need to define the _____ of their investigation carefully. (SCOPE)
4. Clear objectives give your research question stronger _____. (DIRECT)
5. Researchers should avoid questions that are too broad or _____. (FOCUS)
6. A good research question should contribute to your field and be _____ to your study goals. (RELEVANCE)
7. Researchers often need to make several _____ to their questions to improve them. (REVISION)
8. A strong research question can lead to more _____ findings. (INSIGHT)
9. The question should be realistic and _____ with available data. (ACTION)
10. A research question should explore a meaningful _____ between variables. (RELATE)

TASK 5 Academic Collocations & Sentence Writing

A. Complete the collocations using the correct words from the box.

research • meaningful • existing • analytical • broad • key • fresh • academic

1. _____ question

2. _____ sources

3. _____ topic

4. _____ literature

5. _____ thinking

6. _____ answers

7. _____ variables

8. _____ insights

9. _____ study

10. _____ goals

B. Choose **five** collocations from above and write your own academic sentences below:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.